

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 11505 231904Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15 AGR-05 L-03 /073 W

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R 231809Z DEC 75

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 219

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1481

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: UK IMPORT MEASURES

REF EC BRUSSELS 11365

1. THE COMMISSION SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED ON DEC 23 THE RESULTS OF THE COMMISSION'S DELIBERATIONS ON THE UK EXPORT MEASURES. THE COMMISSION ESSENTIALLY CONFIRMED THE POSITION THAT IT HAD TAKEN PUBLICLY LAST WEEK (REFTEL) THAT THE MEASURES WERE INOPPORTUNE, EVEN IF LIMITED.

2. THE COMMISSION WAS RELATIVELY TOLERANT ON THE QUOTAS ON TEXTILES FROM SPAIN AND PORTUGAL. THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED THAT THESE MEASURES WERE COMPATIBLE WITH ARTICLE 29 THE THE AGREEMENT WITH PORTUGAL AND ARTICLE 11 OF THE AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN. THE COMMISSION BELIEVES THAT THE UK SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO KEEP THESE MEASURES IN EFFECT FOR SIX MONTHS (RATHER THAN THE YEAR PROPOSED BY THE UK), AT THE END OF WHICH THEY SHOULD BE REPLACED BY MEASURES NEGOTIATED WITH THE SPANISH AND THE PORTUGUESE. THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPAIN WOULD BE UNDER THE TERMS OF ARTICLE III OF THE MULTI-FIBER AGREEMENT, AS WELL AS THE EC AGREEMENT WITH SPAIN, WHEREAS THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PORTUGAL WILL BE CONDUCTED ONLY WITHIN THE TERMS OF THE PORTUGUESE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 11505 231904Z

3. IN REGARD TO THE UK'S EFFORT TO SEEK VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS WITH EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, THE COMMISSION RECALLED THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING OF 1975 THE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES HAVE BEEN PREEMPTED FROM NEGOTIATIONS WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE. HOWEVER, SINCE TEXTILES AND SHOES ARE NOT AMONG THE LIST OF GOODS LIBERALIZED FOR TRADE WITH EASTERN EUROPE, THE COMMISSION RECOGNIZES THAT AS A PRACTICAL MATTER THE BRITISH COULD MAINTAIN QUOTAS ON THESE GOODS.

4. IN REGARD TO THE SURVEILLANCE PROCEDURE ON TELEVISION SETS AND TUBES, ACCORDING TO THE SPOKESMAN, THE COMMISSION HAS DECIDED THAT IT WISHES TO DISCUSS THESE MEASURES WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IS TELLING THE BRITISH TO HOLD OFF IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE MEASURES (WHICH WERE NOT SCHEDULED TO GO INTO EFFECT UNTIL JAN 1) UNTIL THERE HAS BEEN A CHANCE FOR CONSULTATION. COMMISSION OFFICIALS TELL US PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, THAT THE COMMISSION HAS INFORMED THE BRITISH THAT SURVEILLANCE MEASURES ON IMPORTS FROM OTHER MEMBER STATES WOULD BE AN INFRACTION OF THE TREATY OF ROME AND THAT IF THE BRITISH PUT SUCH MEASURES INTO EFFECT THE COMMISSION WOULD INSTITUTE COMMUNITY PROCEDURES AGAINST THE MEASURES. THUS IN THE WHOLE PACKAGE OF BRITISH IMPORT MEASURES PLUS THE CHRYSLER SALVAGE OPERATION (SEPTTEL), THIS IS THE ONLY POINT WHERE THE COMMISSION IS ASKING FOR DECISION OF A BRITISH GOVERNMENT DECISION. GREENWALD

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, IMPORT CONTROLS, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ECBRU11505  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750446-0272  
**From:** EC BRUSSELS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751216/aaaaanrg.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 EC BRUSSELS 11365  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 23 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UK IMPORT MEASURES  
**TAGS:** ETRD, UK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006